

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, August 1, 2005

Present: Corey, Mehigh, Runyan, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: Johnson (excused), Sanderson (excused)

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Helen Granger, The Independent; Bob Buschman; Chief Kim Williams, Police Department; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Cheryll Warren, The Argus Press; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated July 18, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the agenda by changing Item No. 1) Discussion on SATA Millage Renewal to Item No. 1C and with the addition of Item No. 1A) Excuse Dawn Johnson and Gene Sanderson from the August 1, 2005 Council Meeting, Item No. 1B) Excuse Dan Wagner from the July 18, 2005 Council Meeting, Item No. 6) Consider Additional Sidewalk Resolution, Item No. 7) Consider Bridge Inspection Proposal, Item No. 8) Discussion on 2005 MML Conference, and Item No. 9) Consider Moving August 15, 2005 Meeting to the Olmsted Room.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Chief Kim Williams reported the Corunna Police Department had a LEIN Audit on July 18 and the police department received the best rating it could get. Shelley Spencer spent at least 12 to 14 hours getting ready for the audit and he wanted

to bring to council's attention that she is extremely important to the department and he did

not know what the department would have done without her record keeping.

EXCUSE DAWN JOHNSON AND GENE SANDERSON FROM THE AUGUST 1, 2005

COUNCIL MEETING: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to excuse Dawn Johnson from the August 1, 2005 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Runyan moved, Mehigh seconded to excuse Gene Sanderson from the August 1, 2005 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

EXCUSE DAN WAGER FROM THE JULY 18, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to excuse Dan Wagner from the July 18, 2005 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON SATA MILLAGE RENEWAL: Councilperson Spring explained the city has

been asked to contribute \$13,755.20 for 2006 but he is not sure if the city has been invoiced for 2005. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Mayor Corey stated the city could get invoiced by September 30 but by that time it would be too late to put a millage on a council agenda. Mr. Sawyer advised if the city does not get invoiced for this past year then the city should have most of the money that will be needed for the next fiscal year. Councilperson Spring stated there is the possibility that an authority agreement will go through before this coming election but he did not think it would happen because there are too many issues that need to be discussed. He further stated it looks like an evaluation process might be put in place that Bob Buschman has tried to get in place for a long time. Councilperson Spring also stated things are moving in the right direction but they are moving slowly. SATA is something that is needed and he felt this was something that council should put out to the voters. Mayor Corey advised the amount being talked about is \$13,755.20, which is the amount that the board of directors requested at their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and this is the amount that the city should base its millage request on. Mr. Sawyer advised the millage rate with the city's current taxable value would be .2434 mills. Merilee Lawson advised the voters approved .2325 mills last year but the city only levied .2211 mills. Mayor Corey asked if the city would be safe in asking for .2325 mills like it did before. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Ms. Lawson advised the city should ask for .2434 mills and levy less if the full amount is not needed. Councilperson Spring stated he felt SATA is starting to be more accountable for certain things. Councilperson Mehigh asked if there had been any discussion about bringing in an outside independent agency

that specializes in looking for problems or the books. Councilperson Spring advised one of the things that was brought up at the last reorganization meeting was the need to look at other alternatives because he felt everything should be considered before rushing into an agreement. When other ideas were presented at the last meeting, the focus was not to look at other ideas but to push the authority agreement through. He further advised when he showed up at the last reorganization meeting, it appeared that he was the only one that did any research into looking at other options that were available so in his opinion looking at other avenues has not been done and he does not foresee this happening unless he does it. Councilperson Mehig stated the same things are happening as the have in the past. The city is given one figure and it changes so it makes him wonder if SATA knows what it is doing. He further stated it will be scary once they become an authority and they get to go to the people directly for millage. Councilperson Runyan stated what bothered him the most is the budget changes from meeting to meeting and the board should be more involved with this because it is up to the board to adopt a budget. Councilperson Spring advised up until a couple of months ago, the idea of having any cut was unheard of. He further advised one of the problems he has run into is having into two different mentalities of people who serve on the board. One of the mentalities is to put trust into the transportation manager and expect him to do his job and the other is to question decisions that he makes. Mayor Corey stated the city took a lot of grief last time because it could not get its questions answered and it did not get its questions answered until a dispute was filed. Councilperson Runyan stated transportation for students is another thing that bothers him. He was on the SATA board at the time this was brought up and transportation for students was brought up for people who wanted to go to Baker College and now high school students are being transported and this is just the opposite of what SATA is for. SATA is for the elderly, handicapped and the people who cannot get around. He further stated if someone is missing a ride because a student has to be picked up then this is just the opposite of what SATA is for. Mayor Corey stated SATA cannot discriminate against a certain group because SATA is here to serve the public. Bob Buschman stated he thought the figures discussed might be too high because a transportation bill was just passed by congress so he thinks SATA will get more money from the state. Mayor Corey stated the city can always collect less. Mr. Buschman stated the original agreement states SATA will transport students, elderly and the handicapped. Mr. Sawyer stated a decision on the ballot language would have to be made by the next council meeting. Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to make a motion to direct the city manager to set up the ballot language. Mr. Sawyer advised a resolution asking for .2434 mills would be drafted for the next council meeting. Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to put a resolution on the next council agenda to have .2434 mills for SATA put on the November election.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Runyan, Spring, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF DAVE WENZLICK FROM THE SOFTBALL COMMISSION:

Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to accept the resignation of Dave Wenzlick from the Softball Commission with regret effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF GAYLE MILLS TO THE CORUNNA SOFTBALL

COMMISSION: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Gayle Mills to the Corunna Softball Commission effective immediately for an indefinite period to serve at the pleasure of the council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF GAYLE MILLS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Gayle Mills to the Parks and Recreation Commission effective immediately for an indefinite period to serve at the pleasure of the council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER URBAN LAND ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION: Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to approve the following resolution as presented:

CITY OF CORUNNA  
(Shiawassee County, Michigan)

URBAN LAND ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION 080105-02

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority has made application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting an Urban Land Assembly Loan in the amount of \$450,000 for purchase of two properties within the DDA boundaries of the city located at 149 E. Corunna Avenue and 310 N. Shiawassee St, herein after referred to as “the Project”.

WHEREAS, the Downtown Development Authority is financially committed to the repayment of such loan to the city in the amount of \$450,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) The Project is consistent with the City and Downtown Development Authority’s master and development plans.

- 2) The project will enable the City to obtain more tax base, further commercial development within the central business district, and provide more jobs for the community.
- 3) The City of Corunna is authorized to submit the Michigan Urban Land Assembly Application and further appoints Joe Sawyer, Corunna City Manager, as the authorized person to execute the Application and related grant forms on behalf of the City of Corunna.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE City of Corunna, Shiawassee County, Michigan, by its City Council, has caused this Resolution to be enacted this date.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ADOPT SIDEWALK RESOLUTION: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to accept the following sidewalk resolution:

**CITY OF CORUNNA  
COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION 080105-01

**WHEREAS,** The City of Corunna hereby finds that it is necessary under Section 70.82 (Resolution of necessity) to reconstruct or repair sidewalks within the City of Corunna.

**WHEREAS,** the City Council does elect to construct or repair a sidewalk within the City of Corunna according to the location listed below and specifications attached.

**WHEREAS,** the City Council does hereby set an interest rate for installment payments available in the amount of 6%.

PARCEL ID#	NAME	ADDRESS	AREA	WIDTH
26-10-046-011	DeHaas, Ronald & Jean	200 W. McNeil	Woodworth Side	4'

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON 2005 MML CONFERENCE: Councilperson Runyan stated he would like to go to the conference because he volunteers to work the convention. There is one pre-convention workshop called "Is a city income tax right for your community?" that might be beneficial to the city. Mayor Corey asked if he would be able to answer that question after he attends the workshop. Councilperson Runyan stated he does not make promises

that he is not sure he can deliver. Mayor Corey asked if the workshop is \$109.00. Councilperson Runyan advised yes. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Runyan if he would be going with full registration in the amount of \$329.00. Councilperson Runyan advised yes. Mr. Sawyer advised the full conference registration fee is \$329.00 and does not include the pre-convention workshops so the city income tax workshop would be an additional \$109.00. The banquet is \$50 and the hotel room is \$140.00 per day. Mayor Corey asked how many days the conference was for. Councilperson Runyan advised he would be staying Tuesday and Wednesday night. Mr. Sawyer advised the total cost without mileage would be \$768.00. Mayor Corey asked if there were any other councilmembers who wanted to attend the conference. Mr. Sawyer advised the council budgeted \$2,000 for professional development budget and if more than one person is sent to the conference then a budget amendment would be needed at some point during the year. He further advised the registration fee increases on August 15 so that is why this was put on the council agenda tonight. Councilperson Wagner asked Councilperson Runyan when he would be volunteering at the convention. Councilperson Runyan advised there would be a volunteer meeting between 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday. Mayor Corey advised he does not understand why the MML does not pay his way if he is working for them. Councilperson Wagner stated he has a hard time spending that kind of money for someone to go and volunteer to help run the MML program. Councilperson Spring stated he thought it would be beneficial to look into whether or not the city could get a reduced rate for volunteering. Councilperson Runyan advised he did not think there was a reduced rate for volunteering. Mr. Sawyer advised there is some value to getting some information from the conferences and since Councilperson Runyan is very interested in attending the conference, he asked Councilperson Runyan if he had a proposal that he would like to make to the council. Councilperson Runyan explained he started earning credits in 1999 by going to MML functions and has completed Level I and II and is currently working on Level III. He has been nominated to be on MML EAO Board and one of the qualifications was to be a graduate of Level II, which he has achieved. He further explained he wants to go to this conference so he can get more involved. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like to see Councilperson Runyan go but the council has a \$2,000 budget. There might be new councilpeople that might need to go to training or other conferences the council might want to go to and the council will not have any money. Councilperson Runyan asked what the total amount would be. Mayor Corey advised the cost including mileage would be around \$850.00. Councilperson Runyan stated if the council would pay half of the cost, he would pay the other half. Mehigh moved, Spring seconded to fund Councilperson Runyan at the level of \$425.00 to attend the 2005 MML Conference.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

**CONSIDER MOVING AUGUST 15, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING TO THE OLMSTED ROOM:**

Mehigh moved, Wagner seconded to move the August 15, 2005 council meeting from city hall to the Olmsted Room.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER BRIDGE INSPECTION ENGINEERING PROPOSAL: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to accept the bridge inspection engineering proposal from Capital Consultants in the amount of \$1,850.00.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton stated the township hall is coming along.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Wagner advised the airport will be closed one day next month but he did not know the exact day and the airport has a new manager who has an aviation management degree.

Councilperson Runyan stated he attended the fire board meeting on Thursday night that Councilperson Mehigh is vice-chair of.

Councilperson Spring stated he does not know what Chief Williams has told his men but he appreciates who ever it is who is sitting in front of his house running traffic.

Councilperson Spring further stated he has received many complaints about speeding and he sees cars being stopped. He advised the Forestry Commission is cutting down trees and planting new ones.

Councilperson Mehigh thanked Councilperson Runyan for mentioning the fire board. Councilperson Mehigh advised the fire board is looking at purchasing a new fire truck but is a little short in funds as far as making long-term payments. The fire board is looking at raising the fire run fees and Scott Johnson has been asked to find out what other fire departments in the county are charging for fire runs. Councilperson Mehigh further advised raising the fee to \$750 would probably make sure the fire board has enough money to make the fire truck payment. Councilperson Mehigh stated he was very pleased to see the article in the paper written by Drew Acre about the ambulance service offering free CPR instruction. He further stated the fire department and the ambulance service are donating their old equipment to Applebees for display on their walls. Mr. Sawyer advised the police department has a section as well. Councilperson Mehigh advised he has heard some positive reports about the police department. Mayor Corey stated the fire board is considering raising the fire run fee but one of the problems is that the fire department is not collecting on them and asked if the collections have gone up. Councilperson Mehigh stated there will always be problems getting people to pay. Larry Runyan brought up a suggestion at the last fire board meeting to add the 29 percent collection fee that the collection agency charges to the unpaid fire run, which should help some. Mayor Corey stated part of the reason for charging \$500 for a fire run is because this is the amount that an insurance company will pay and if the fee is changed to \$750, there might be people that cannot afford this. Councilperson Mehigh stated that might be a possibility in some cases but people have the option of going to the fire board of appeals. He further stated

some places are charging \$1,000 per fire run but it is not the fire board's intention to put a burden on anyone. Mr. Sawyer advised some of the insurance companies are raising their fees. Mayor Corey stated he thought the fire department was only collecting 10 to 15 percent of the fire run fees. Mr. Sawyer advised he thought the fire department was only billing 10 to 15 percent of the fire runs. Councilperson Mehig advised no and he thought the fire department does a good job of collecting. Mayor Corey asked what percentage of the fire runs are being billed. Councilperson Runyan advised the amount collected in 2004 was about \$6,000. Mayor Corey advised that did not answer his question. He asked if 15 to 20 percent of the fire runs are being billed or if 100 percent of the fire runs are being billed. Mr. Sawyer advised \$6,000 would be about 12 runs and there are about 180 runs per year so only 12 fire runs got paid. Councilperson Mehig stated Mr. Sawyer might be right but this is hard for him to believe and that is not what the fire board is being told. Councilperson Runyan advised he believes Linda LeCureux has got all of that information on her computer. Mayor Corey stated if only 10 or 15 percent of the fire runs are being billed then there is a huge amount that is not being billed. Councilperson Mehig stated he agreed and this comes as a shock to him.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Spring seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Spring, Runyan, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:30 p.m.

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STEVE COREY, MAYOR

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NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER